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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 03327.2333

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Yasuhiro OKUMOTO et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)
Application No.: 10/539,246) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Filed: June 16, 2006)
)
For: PROCESSING METHOD AND) Confirmation No.: 9261
DEVICE)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of the listed foreign document is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

An English Abstract of the non-English documents is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

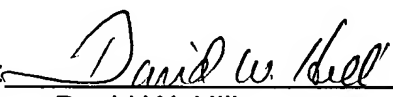
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

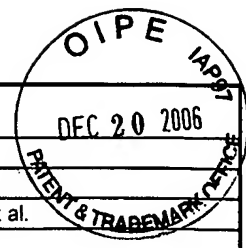
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 20, 2006

By: 
David W. Hill
Reg. No. 28,220



IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO			Complete if Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)			Application Number	10/539,246	
			Filing Date	June 16, 2006	
			First Named Inventor	Yasuhiro Okumoto et al.	
			Art Unit	Unassigned	
			Examiner Name	Unassigned	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	3327.2333

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
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Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 05-275510	10/22/1993	Hirosuke Sato et al.		English Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.